

Wake of the Baiji

**Baiji, the Yangtze River dolphin is likely extinct:
Will Vaquita, the Gulf of California porpoise, soon follow?**



Art by Barbara Taylor

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In December 2006, scientists reported that the Baiji, a freshwater dolphin found only in the Yangtze River of China, was probably extinct after an extensive 6-week search failed to record a single animal. Barbara Taylor, who played a pivotal role in designing and carrying out the survey will share the results of the research efforts.

The loss of this 20-million year old species would be the first dolphin to be driven to extinction by humans. With the likely extinction of the Baiji, the Vaquita, a porpoise found only in the waters of the northern Gulf of California, Mexico, now becomes the most Critically Endangered cetacean species in the world (cetaceans include the whales, dolphins, and porpoises). With a population of 200-300 animals and numbers declining, its future is uncertain. Hear about international science efforts to conserve the Vaquita.